

OFFICE OF THE STATE SUPERINTENDENT OF EDUCATION

NOTICE OF FUNDING AVAILABILITY

Family Child Development Homes to Join A Neighborhood-based Network of High Quality Infant/ Toddler Child Care and Comprehensive Services

Request for Applications Release Date:

October 31, 2014

Pre-Application Conference Date: November 12, 2014

Pre-Application Conference Webinar Date: November 13, 2014

Registration for Pre-Application Conference and/or Webinar: November 10, 2014

Grant Application Submission Deadline: December 2, 2014

The Office of the State Superintendent for Education (OSSE) of the District of Columbia seeks applications from Family Child Development Home partners interested in joining a neighborhood-based technical assistance network in order to receive support to attain and maintain federal Early Head Start (EHS) standards.

This new initiative is the first step toward a multi-year effort to build a neighborhood-based quality improvement system for child care providers in the District that will result in more children and families benefiting from early, continuous, intensive, and comprehensive child development and family support services, including educational, health, nutritional, behavioral, and family support services which enhance the physical, social, emotional, and intellectual development of participating children. In addition, Family Child Development Home partners that are selected to join a quality improvement network will benefit from the following:

- Job-embedded, continuous, professional learning and technical assistance aligned to DC Early Learning Standards and EHS.
- Payment at the Gold Level rate for eligible children (approximately \$2,000 more annually than the Bronze rate).
- Full payment based on enrollment not daily attendance rates.
- Assistance with recruitment to fill vacancies and support with transitions to pre-K.
- Mini-grants to support quality improvement.

Request for Applications: As part of OSSE's \$4.1 million Quality Improvement Initiative in the fiscal year 2015 ("FY15") budget for improving and expanding the quality of infant and toddler care and leveraging a new federal funding opportunity to support EHS-child care partnerships, OSSE is seeking applications from licensed Family Child Development Homes that wish to be considered to join a community-based Quality Improvement Network. The Family Child Development Home Network will be led by a community-based organization that will serve as a Hub. The Hub agency serving Family Child Development Home partners is the Mary Center.

Mary Center will be responsible for providing services and supports to participating Family Child Development Homes under the Quality Improvement Network and help them meet the following goals:

- Achieving [Federal Head Start Program Performance Standards for serving infants, toddlers, and their families](#) in a family child care setting. Assisting Child Development Home providers and any employed teachers in the home to attain a Child Development Associate's certification with a focus on infant and toddler care within two years of becoming a participating provider.
- Providing comprehensive child development services for all children that enhance their physical, social, emotional, and intellectual development.
- Providing an array of services to families including parenting education and family support.

Anticipated Number of Awards: OSSE seeks to fund multiple grantees to serve as a partner child care provider. Should a grantee fail to achieve the stated goals and objectives described in the individual proposal under this application that grantee may be subject to penalties that include, but are not limited to, loss of funding, suspension or termination.

Available Funding for Awards: Selected providers will be eligible to receive Gold level subsidy payments from OSSE for participating children and mini-grants from their hub agency. To support the capacity of the Mary Center to partner with qualified Family Child Development Homes responding to this RFA, OSSE plans to utilize \$350,000 from the Mayor's proposed funding allocation for early learning and existing agency managed dollars, including those available through child care subsidy and early intervention.

Eligibility Criteria: OSSE seeks information from Family Child Development Homes willing to join a One City approach to raising the quality of infant and toddler child care by serving as neighborhood-based technical assistance. To be eligible, responding agencies must:

- Operate in wards 1 or 4;
- Are licensed or in the process of becoming licensed by OSSE, have not been grandfathered in/ as exempt from certain licensing; standards, or received a waiver from any licensing requirements, and have no substantiated reports of licensing violations within the last year;
- Are serving children between birth and age three;
- Are willing to have two to three slots filled by children who are part of the EHS-child care partnership model;
- Have participated in training or education programming to learn best practices in caring for infants and toddlers in the past two years;
- Are interested in serving children with special needs;
- Have the willingness and dedication to implement the federal Head Start Program; and Performance Standards and prioritize Early Head Start eligible children for service.

Expectations for Child Development Home partners in the Quality Improvement Hub

Within 18 months of becoming a partner, Child Development Homes must:

- Partner with hub agencies to develop and implement a quality improvement plan;
- Meet federal key Head Start Program Performance standards for serving infants, toddlers, and their families;
- Meet or exceed DC rules regarding child-adult ratios and group size in Child Development Homes;
- Be working toward or successfully attain a CDA with training in infant/toddler development within two years of becoming a provider in the network;
- Support the provision of comprehensive services for children and families by the Hub agency, including supporting implementation of individualized family service plans (IFSP);
- Participate in the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP); and
- Facilitate children's and families' transitions to pre-k.

Important Dates: The Request for Application (RFA) will be available on October 31, 2014. Applications may be obtained from the Office of Partnerships and Grant Services website, Funding Alert link @ <http://opgs.dc.gov/page/funding-alert> , the DC Register <http://www.dcregs.dc.gov/> or the Office of the State Superintendent of Education (OSSE) website, <http://osse.dc.gov/>. Applications may also be obtained from Mr. Walter C. Lundy, Jr., Associate Director, please send an email to Walter.Lundy@dc.gov to request an electronic copy of the application.

Parties interested in applying for this RFA are required to attend the Pre-Application Conference that will be held on November 12, 2014, 12:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. EST at 810 First Street, NE, Rm 901 4, Washington, DC 20002. Additionally, a follow-up Webinar will be hosted by OSSE on November 12, 2014 from 12:00 pm – 2 pm. Interested parties are required to RSVP for the Pre-Application Conference and/or Webinar to Mr. Walter Lundy via email to Walter.Lundy@dc.gov by November 10, 2014. **The deadline for final application submission is December 2, 2014, via electronic submission at 3:30 p.m. EST.**